

Christmas Presents.

BY MISS MABEL HARDY, CORNELL, ONT.

DEAR MINNIE MAY:—Having seen your offer of a silver brooch for the best variety of suitable presents for Xmas, I beg to send my collection. In my list I have tried to describe such articles as are attractive, yet useful and inexpensive. By giving a few illustrations, I hoped to make my directions more clear.

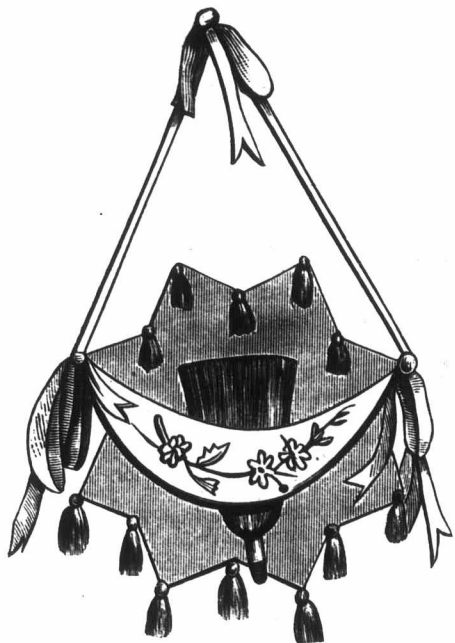
Yours truly, M. H.

SHAVING CASE.

The foundation of the case is of cardboard, cut in any pretty shape. Each side is lined with blue satin and bound with the same, and filled with scalloped pieces of fine-colored tissue paper. A piece of dark maroon velvet is put on the outside of the cover, and nicely embroidered. The two halves are fastened together with ribbon tied in bows.

WHISK HOLDER.

This is very pretty, consisting of a star and crescent. The star and crescent are each covered with plush, and a design in ribbosene and areseene being worked in the crescent. Finish with rib-



bon to match, and pink and cardinal balls to match the cardinal coverings. My sketch conveys a poor idea of this article.

A PRETTY BANGLE BOARD.

Take a pretty ear of corn; remove three or four grains, and in their places screw hooks for articles; into the ends fasten a brass-headed tack to hold a ribbon in place, to hang it up by.

Take a small-sized slate; bronze the frame and paint a design on the slate. Screw hooks into the lower part of the frame and suspend with two colors of ribbon. This is a pretty bangle board.

A very useful present is a

MUSIC HOLDER.

The holder consists of two bands of embroidered satin, measuring two inches wide and six inches long. They are lined first with a double fold of stiff muslin, then with satin. They are fastened around the music by a loop of elastic and a button. These are fixed to a handle. One of the handles, such as are used with parcel-straps, would answer for this purpose. It should be covered with plush or satin to match the bands, and be sewn to the bands.

A COMBING TOWEL.

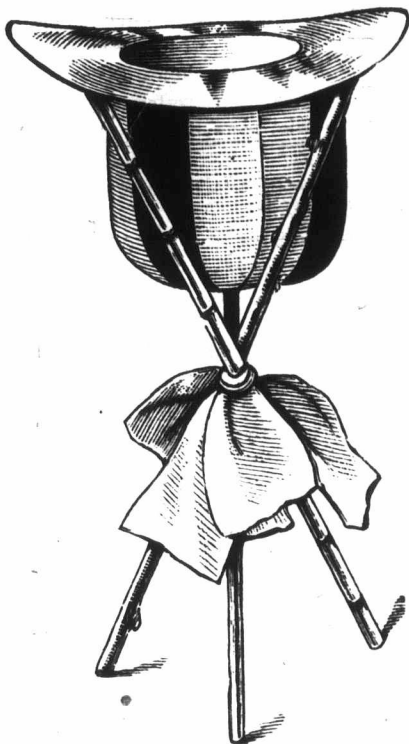
Take a nice, good-sized towel; cut it in two, crosswise, and one-half, lengthwise; slope for the shoulders and hollow for the neck; fasten the front pieces with loops, and on the two corners of the back outline a comb and brush, and three or four hairpins.

SACHET PIN CUSHION.

A sachet pin cushion, very pretty and decorative, is made of four little bags filled with bran. They are covered with different-colored satins, and for about three inches around the top is a facing of some contrasting color. The bag is firmly tied below this, and the top turned over slightly to show the facing. Fasten the four bags together, having first outlined the words, oats, barley, beans and wheat on the outside of them.

A USEFUL AND NOVEL PRESENT.

Sisters, rob your good-natured brother of one of his worn felt hats. Beg three canes, also, and make a pretty, useful and novel present, in the following manner:—



The outer side of the hat is covered with strips of many-colored ribbon, arranged in rainbow fashion. The inside and brim are lined with pale-blue satin, drawn as illustrated. The tripod formed by the three sticks is caught in the centre by an enormous bow of blue satin ribbon, deftly tied.

LADIES' WORK-BAG.

Can be made of nomie cloth, linen, satin, or pongee silk, lined with different colored satin. It is ornamented with intersecting circles, worked in contrasting colors, either darned or woven in silk. An inch and a half from the top are two rows of stitching, through which pass ribbons used as draw strings.

N. B.—This bag is pretty made of gray lustre or poplin, lined with cardinal, and the circles made of velvets applied on the goods.

SPECTACLE WIPER.

Have a nice piece of chamois leather, say two inches square, nicely button-hole stitched round the edge for grandpa's vest pocket, for the purpose of wiping off his spectacles.

JUST FOR ORNAMENT.

Take two bottles of any pretty shape and size, and paint them smoothly with either rose pink or robin's egg blue paint. After the first coat dries give them another. Cut a stiff paper pattern of English ivy leaves in two or three sizes; with a pencil draw a vine; then arrange the paper leaves in a natural way along the vine. Outline them with a pencil. Then with a small brush paint both vine and leaves. If the ground color is blue the ivy spray may be gold; if pink, either gold or green. Care should be taken to have the edges smooth and even. When the ivy spray gets dry give the whole bottle two coats of shellac varnish, made by dissolving the best gum shellac in alcohol. A bow of ribbon, the color of the decoration, may be tied around the neck if desired, or a stopper of wood may be made of some pretty design, and painted to match, and a cord and tassel of silk be fastened to the stopper and tied around the neck of the bottle.

SACHET CUSHION.

Dainty, useful and sweet scented, is this ornament for a sofa, easy chair or toilet table. The two bags are made of one piece of silk, satin, or wide ribbon, and filled with cotton batting, well sprinkled with perfume powder, a small



space unfilled being left in the centre, where a ribbon is tied lightly around in numerous bows and notched ends. The lower part of such bag is covered with scrim, the top of which is a covering of gilt soutache braid.

A LAMP MAT.

To make this pretty article, take a sheet of white wadding and cut in strips three or four inches wide. Edge them in wool, either a wide button-hole stitch or with double crochet. Cut a square or round piece of paste-board; cover with a layer of wadding and catch down in squares. Plait in treble-box plaits the strips on to the covered paste-board, and you will find the effect very pleasing.

PAPER HOLDER.

A pretty paper holder is made as follows:—Take an oblong piece of paste-board, large as possible, not too stiff. Line nicely with sateen and cover the outside with plush, having a strip of some contrasting color up the centre. Embroider or paint on this strip, and fasten to the front by fancy stitching. Next double together and finish with a rod, which holds the edges together. It is very pretty.

LADIES' WOOLLEN SLIPPERS.

Buy two ounces of some dark shade of double Berlin wool, and one ounce of a light shade, or some contrasting color. Use coarse needles, and knit back and forth on two needles. Cast on 13 stitches, knit across plain; knit off the first stitch of next row plain; then wrap the light-colored wool once round the needle and forefinger of left hand, and knit this in. Knit next stitch plain with dark wool, and so on, with